

A1 having been laid in the sea for a long period of year.

IN THE CLAIMS:

18. (Amended) An underwater immersion block produced by a method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a granular iron and steel making slag mixture;
and

A2 (b) producing a carbonate by carbonation of the mixture to agglomerate the mixture by using the carbonate as a binder.

19. (Amended) A method of producing an underwater immersion block, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a granular iron and steel making slag mixture;
(b) forming a packed bed of the mixture; and
(c) carrying out a carbonation of the mixture in the packed bed to agglomerate the mixture.

Please cancel non-elected claims 1 to 17 and 20, without prejudice.

Please add the following claims;

OK 21. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the block is used for a sea-water immersion.

OK 22. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the block is used for a river immersion.

23. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the mixture comprises granular slag containing CaO, and the carbonate is CaCO_3 . *new matter*

not supported by page 22 line 10 !!

24. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the mixture comprises granular slag containing CaO and MgO, and the carbonate includes CaCO_3 and MgCO_3 . *new matter*

25. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the granular iron and steel making slag mixture comprises a water-granulated blast furnace slag.

26. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the granular iron and steel making slag mixture comprises granular slag subjected to a metallic iron removal treatment.

Is same as iron ore reduction process 17-25 new matter

27. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the mixture further comprises a granular additive.

28. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 27, wherein the granular additive comprises an iron oxide.

iron only support not iron oxide

29. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 27, wherein the granular additive comprises an iron oxide-containing material.

30. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 27, wherein the granular additive comprises metallic iron. *OK*

31. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 27, wherein the granular additive comprises a metallic iron-containing material. *6/4*

32. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 27, wherein the granular additive comprises a soluble silica.

1/2 *yes not "soluble"*
silica support
33. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 27, wherein the granular additive comprises a soluble silica-containing material.

34. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 27, wherein the granular additive comprises CaO. *6/4*

Sub 35
35. (New) The underwater immersion block according to claim 18, wherein the underwater immersion block has a porosity of 10 to 70%.

new matter need "about" 10-670%

OK
36. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein forming the packed bed comprises forming a pile of the mixture.

37. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion

OK block according to claim 19, wherein the block is used for a sea-water immersion.

OK 38. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the block is used for a river immersion.

OK 39. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the granular iron and steel making slag mixture comprises a water-granulated blast furnace slag.

OK 40. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the granular iron and steel making slag mixture comprises granular slag subjected to a metal removal treatment.

OK 41. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the mixture further comprises a granular additive.

~~OK 42. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 41, wherein the granular additive comprises an iron oxide. ← support new matter~~

~~OK 43. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion~~

block according to claim 41, wherein the granular additive comprises an ~~iron oxide~~-containing material.

OK 44. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 41, wherein the granular additive comprises a metallic iron.

OK 45. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 41, wherein the granular additive comprises a metallic iron-containing material.

Q3 46. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 41, wherein the granular additive comprises a soluble silica.
new matter

47. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 41, wherein the granular additive comprises a soluble silica-containing material.
new matter

OK 48. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 41, wherein the granular additive comprises CaO.

OK 49. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the step of preparing the mixture comprises mixing (i) the granular iron and steel making

slag, and (ii) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of CaO , $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$, MgO and $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$.

OK 50. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the step of preparing the mixture comprises adjusting a moisture content of the mixture to a degree of a water content value so that an agglomerate formed after the carbonation has a maximum compressive strength.

OK 51. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the step of agglomerating the mixture comprises blowing a gas containing carbon dioxide into the mixture in the packed bed.

OK 52. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the step of agglomerating the mixture comprises placing the mixture in the packed bed in a gas atmosphere containing carbon dioxide.

~~Sub Bt 53. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 52, wherein the carbon dioxide is carbon dioxide saturated with H_2O .~~ new matter

OK 54. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, wherein the packed bed has a bulk specific gravity/true specific gravity ratio of 0.3 to 0.9.

8455
AB

55. (New) The method of producing the underwater immersion block according to claim 19, further comprising breaking the resultant agglomerated mixture from step (c) into desired sizes.

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